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March 31, 2009

Pamela W. Barclay
Director, Center for Hospital Services
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Re: Proposed amendments to COMAR 10.24.17

Dear Ms. Barclay:

Anne Arundel Medical Center (AAMC) submits these comments related to:

Category: Institutional Resources

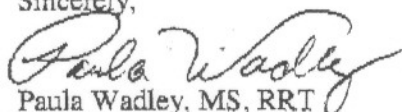
2) All institutions should provide primary PCI as soon as possible and not to exceed [120] 90 minutes from patient arrival (i.e., door-to-balloon time of \leq [120] 90 minutes) for [80] 75 percent of appropriate patients.

AAMC supports the goal that life saving services should be provided as rapidly as possible. Since shorter is better, 90 minutes is better than 120 minutes for the great majority of the cases.

AAMC agrees with any initiative designed to improve patient care, improve the delivery of quality services in a timely and efficient manner in our health care system. However, the change should not be punitive in nature. AAMC would therefore urge the Commission to phase in the requirement, so that a delay in meeting the requirement would not cause the loss of ongoing ability to provide the service.

AAMC supports the proposed change, if it is intended to be an aspirational goal.

Sincerely,


Paula Wadley, MS, RRT
Vice President
Clinical & Support Services